

Remarks

After the current amendments, Claims 1-19 remain under consideration.

According to the amended Claim 11, the light source, the retardation and the polarizer are arranged in a straight line. Therefore, the light path of the present invention is a straight line, the alignment of the light source, the retardation and the polarizer is fairly easy, and the total volume of the projection illumination device of the present invention is fairly small.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the examiner's position with regard to what the prior art discloses. Specifically, applicant submits that Ito (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0028412) discloses that the element (40B) in FIG. 7 only refers to a conventional PS converter (14) as shown in Figs. 1 to 3 of the present application, rather than a wire grid polarizer as claimed. Specifically, with reference to Paragraph [105] of Ito, "The polarization conversion element 40B differs from the conversion element (40) in that the polarization separation films, the reflection films, and transmissive members disposed thereamong are large, as compared with the case of the element (40) of the first embodiment. However, the rest of the element (40B) does not differ from the corresponding part of the element (40)." Further referring to Figs. 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b and Paragraphs [66] and [67] of Ito, the conversion element (40B) can also be regarded as a conventional PS converter. As a result, taking FIG. 7 of Ito for example, two lens arrays (220, 230) are needed and must be aligned and fit the polarization conversion element (40B), which increases the manufacturing difficulty and cost, and makes no improvements in light illumination efficiency.

As for Li (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0073653), in view of FIG. 7, the projection illumination device comprises a light source 708, a reflector 702, a wave plate 772, and light pipe, a PBS 766 and return reflector 788. In comparison with the present invention, the projection illumination device disclosed by Li has three additional elements, namely the reflector 702, the light pipe and the return reflector 788. Additionally, the light source 708 must be disposed on the first focal point 704, and the light pipe must be disposed on the second focal point 706, which results in difficulty of alignment and large volume of total projection illumination device. Finally, the light

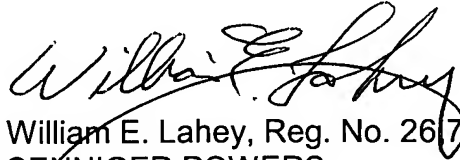
beams in the projection illumination device must be reflected several times, which may cause loss of the light beams.

In view of the fact that Ito does not disclose or suggest the claimed "wire grid polarizer", applicant submits that all of proposed combinations of prior art rejections are inappropriate and for that reason alone, should be withdrawn. In addition, the rejection of claims 10-19 based in part on the alleged teachings of Li should be withdrawn for the reasons stated above.

Conclusion

It is believed that no fees are due in connection with this Amendment B. If, however, the Commissioner determines a fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge said government fees to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,



William E. Lahey, Reg. No. 26757
SENNIGER POWERS
One Metropolitan Square, 16th Floor
St. Louis, Missouri 63102
(314) 231-5400

WEL/skb/lrw
Mail Stop Amendment
Express Mail Label No. EV 621124090 US